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February 17, 1999 LB 67, 566

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: LB 566 is advanced. Next item.

CLERK: LB 67, introduced by Senator Kristensen. (Read title.) Bill was introduced on January 7, referred to the Education Committee, advanced to General File. There are committee amendments.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Senator Kristensen, you're recognized to open on LB 67.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. LB 67 does a couple of things. First of all, the purpose for the bill is to deal with the tribal community college system here in the state of Nebraska. There are those people who don't realize that we have actually tribal community colleges. As a little bit of history, I want to talk to you about why we've brought the bill, but there is a more important purpose that's in the bill. Actually, the tribal community college calculation is a clean-up matter. When we change the formula for distributing aid to the community colleges, we did not correctly include some of the distributions that would go to the Indian tribal community colleges, and that's what this bill does. The green copy of that does it, it corrects that, and that's roughly I think somewhere in the neighborhood of 50 to 60 thousand dollars. There's no fiscal impact for that portion, but it takes the portion of state aid that goes to community colleges and shifts it over to the two Indian community college systems. That's...that's purpose one. Purpose two, perhaps more importantly, is what's in the committee amendment and I want to spend some time on that, introducing that concept to you this morning. In 1996 and 1997, we first started to look at levy limits. Obviously, the community college system was included into that. They had, at that point in time, a maximum levy of 13.3 cents of mill levy that they could access. Western Community College, which is the purpose of the amendment, was the one that was at the greatest risk. They were at 12.3 percent. Because of their value base and because of their student base, they had a higher levy. In 1997 and 1998, as we came forward working with levy limits in those years, as you remember, we put a levy cap on community colleges and we set you're going to have to go to eight cents and then down to four